

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2216

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC, LI
SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: UGANDA

REF: STATE 077172

1. THE REFERENCE ASKS FOR INFORMATION ON ONE PEAL, PUBLIC PROSECUTOR FROM LIBERIA" WHOM KEBA M'BAYE IS CONSIDERING AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR AN "EMINENT AFRICAN PERSONALITY" TO ENTER INTO CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA WITH REGARD TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN UGANDA. THE ONLY PROMINENT PEAL WITH A LEGAL BACKGROUND IS J. JENKINS PEAL, PRESENTLY MINISTER OF INFORMATION, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM . PEAL HAS BEEN A DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL, COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 1963 - 1972, AND MINISTER OF LABOR, YOUTH AND SPORTS. HIS RECORD HAS BEEN UNIMPRESSIVE AND HE IS NOT HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY FELLOW LIBERIAN OFFICIALS. HE COPEAS AS MINISTER BUT JUST BARELY AND HIS SURVIVAL TO DATE IS MORE A MATTER OF LINGERING POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF THE PEAL FAMILY THAN OF ANY ABILITIES OF HIS OWN. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE HIM AS AN "EMINENT AFRICAN PERSONALITY" IN ANY SENSE.

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2. A FAR MORE LIKELY CANDIDATE WOULD BE PEAL'S OLDER BROTHER, S. EDWARD PEAL, WHO, THOUGH LACKING A LEGAL BACKGROUND, HAS THE BREADTH, EXPERIENCE, INTELLIGENCE AND PERSONALITY TO QUALIFY HIM AS AN "EMINENT AFRICAN PERSONALITY". S. EDWARD PEAL, BORN IN 1923, WAS IN THE GOL DIPLOMATIC SERVICE FROM 1946 - 1976 SPENDING HIS

LAST 14 YEARS AS LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. HIS CAREER INCLUDED TOURS AS FIRST SECRETARY IN PARIS; CONSUL GENERAL AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE IN LONDON; CONSUL GENERAL IN HAMBURG; MINISTER TO THE HAGUE; AND AMBASSADOR TO GUINEA. HE WAS SECRETARY TO THE LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO THE UN IN 1948 AND 1950; LIBERIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP; MEMBER OF THE LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON POLLUTION OF THE SEA; MEMBER, LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO THE AFRICAN SUMMIT CONFERENCE BETWEEN GHANA, GUINEA AND LIBERIA AT SANNIQUELLI, LIBERIA; MEMBER OF THE LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO THE 15TH THROUGH 24TH SESSIONS OF THE UNGA; MEMBER, LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO IMF/IBRD, TOKYO, 1964; AND CHAIRMAN, LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE CONFERENCE AT OTTAWA, 1964. PEAL WAS GIVEN A DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREE, HONORIS CAUSA, BY THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH.

3. S. EDWARD PEAL WAS ELECTED TO THE LIBERIAN SENATE IN 1977, AND BECAME A COUNSELOR OF LAW IN FEBRUARY 1978.

4. PEAL SPEAKS FRENCH, IS A METHODIST AND HAS QUALITIES (URBANE, THOUGHTFUL, INTELLIGENT) WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO QUALIFY FOR THE ROLE WHICH M'BAYE HAS IN MIND.

CARTER

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